

Message Text

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17

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SUBJECT: JIJI AND SANKEI POLLS ON CABINET SUPPORT AND LOCKHEED
IMPACT

SUMMARY: MONTHLY JIJI PRESS POLL, NATIONWIDE INTERVIEWING FOR WHICH TOOK PLACE 10-13 FEBRUARY, FOUND VERY SLIGHT FURTHER DETERIORATION IN STANDING OF MIKI CABINET TO 24.5 PERCENT SUPPORT AND 41 PERCENT NON-SUPPORT. LATE FEBRUARY SANKEI TELEPHONE POLL REACHING 937 TOKYO-OSAKA RESIDENTS FOUND 31 PERCENT SUPPORT (UP FROM JANUARY'S 25) AND 44 PERCENT NON-SUPPORT FOR CABINET. SANKEI POLL RESPONDENTS SPLIT OVER WHETHER MIKI IS CLEAN POLITICIAN, BUT ALMOST HALF (49 PERCENT) THOUGHT MIKI IS TRYING TO ACHIEVE PROMISES MADE WHEN HE TOOK OFFICE. ALTHOUGH ALMOST TWO THIRDS SAID MIKI IS SHOWING LITTLE OR NO LEADERSHIP IN POLITICAL ARENA, MOST BLAMED LDP FACTIONS FOR THIS. MIKI HANDLING OF LOCKHEED CASE LEFT 59 PERCENT DISSATISFIED (71-74 PERCENT AMONG THOSE SUPPORTING OPPOSITION PARTIES) AND 23 PERCENT SATISFIED. IF GENERAL ELECTION TOOK PLACE SOON, 39 PERCENT THOUGHT LOCKHEED SCANDAL WOULD BE "BIG MINUS" FOR LDP, 43 PERCENT SAID "SLIGHT MINUS" AND 14 PERCENT SAID "NO IMPACT." END SUMMARY.

1. JIJI PRESS MONTHLY POLL IN FEBRUARY FOUND CABINET SUPPORT RATE DOWN VERY SLIGHTLY FROM PREVIOUS MONTH TO 24.5 PERCENT, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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NON-SUPPORT AGAIN AT 41 PERCENT. COMPARED TO NET NEGATIVE RATING

OF ONLY 4.3 PERCENT SIX MONTHS AGO, NET NEGATIVE NOW IS 16.5 PERCENT. PERCENTAGES OF SUPPORT FOR DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE REMAINED FAIRLY CONSTANT; AND SURVEY FOUND NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN FEELINGS ABOUT JAPAN'S FOREIGN POLICY ALIGNMENT OR IN LIKE-DISLIKE RATINGS OF MAJOR NATIONS.

2. MARCH 2 DAILY SANKEI SHIMBUN REPORTED RESULTS OF FEBRUARY 27 TELEPHONE POLL OF TOKYO-OSAKA RESIDENTS AGED 15-64 ON CABINET SUPPORT AND LOCKHEED. FOUND 31 PERCENT SUPPORT UP SIX PERCENT FROM SANKEI'S JANUARY POLL FINDING, AND 44 PERCENT NON-SUPPORT. (BALANCE OF 100 PERCENT HERE AND IN SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONS IS "DON'T KNOW" RESPONSE.) ASKED WHETHER RESPONDENTS THINK MIKI IS CLEAN POLITICIAN AN FOUND ALMOST EVEN SPLIT--38 PERCENT SAYING YES AND 36 PERCENT SAYING NO. WHEN POLLSTERS ASKED WHETHER RESPONDENTS THINK MIKI HAS BEEN TRYING TO ACHIEVE PROMISES HE MADE UPON ASSUMING OFFICE, 49 PERCENT SAID YES AGAINST 38 PERCENT SAYING NO. STILL, AS TO WHETHER MIKI IS EXHIBITING LEADERSHIP AS PRIME MINISTER IN HIS HANDLING OF POLITICS, 56 PERCENT SAID "NOT MUCH" AND NINE PERCENT SAID "NONE AT ALL," AGAINST TWO PERCENT SAYING HE IS SHOWING LEADERSHIP WELL AND 30 PERCENT SAYING HE SHOWS IT SOMEWHAT. PROBE QUEESTION ONLY FOR THOSE ON NEGATIVE SIDE OF THIS QUESTION ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY FOR MIKI'S FAILURE TO SHOW LEADERSHIP MOSTLY TO LDP FACTIONS (54 PERCENT). ONLY SIX PERCENT SAID MIKI HIMSELF IS TO BLAME.

3. SANKEI POLL THEN SWITCHED TO LOCKHEED CASE, ASKING WHAT RESPONDENTS THOUGHT ABOUT WAY MIKI HAS HANDLED INCIDENT. 23 PERCENT WERE SATISFIED (36 PERCENT OF PRO-LDP AND PRO-DSP: 38-39 PERCENT OF THOSE AGED 50 OR MORE); 59 PERCENT WERE DISSATISFIED (46 PERCENT OF PRO-LDP, OVER 70 PERCENT OF THOSE FAVORING OPPOSITION PARTIES OTHER THAN DSP). FINAL QUESTION: "IF THERE SHOULD BE GENERAL ELECTIONS SOON, WHAT KIND OF IMPACT DO YOU THINK LOCKHEED INCIDENT WOULD HAVE ON LDP?" ANSWERS: "BIG MINUS" - 39 PERCENT, "SLIGHT MINUS" - 43 PERCENT, "NOT MUCH IMPACT" - 14 PERCENT, "A PLUS" - ZERO.

MILLER

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